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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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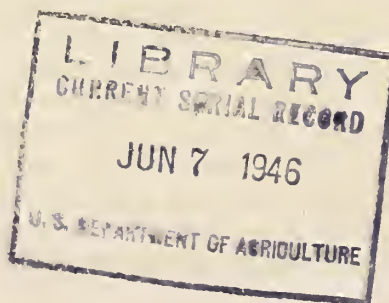
Page

| | |
|--|-----|
| GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS | |
| Rice Prospects Bright in Rio Grande do Sul | 337 |
| Chile's Rice Surplus May Be Cut Sharply .. | 338 |
| Argentine Wheat Bonus Extended | 346 |
| Canadian Grain Areas Need Rain | 346 |
| FATS AND OILS | |
| Cuban Soap Fat Position Improves | 338 |
| Argentine Tallow Exports Continue at Low Level | 340 |
| Cuban Plans Rise in Fats, Oils Output | 341 |
| FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS | |
| Palestine Citrus Crop Up Sharply | 341 |
| COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS | |
| Weekly Cotton Prices on Foreign Markets .. | 341 |
| LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS | |
| Danish Hog Numbers Slightly Increased | 342 |
| Australian Dairy Prospects Improved | 343 |
| Sweden Expands Wool Industry in North | 343 |
| Uruguayan Wool Receipts, Exports Down; Prices Up | 344 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | |
| Late News | 336 |

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JUNE 3, 1946



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

Results of a Gallup Poll in which British adults were asked "What would be your chief complaint about food at the moment, that it is monotonous and without variety, or that you do not get enough of it," were announced as follows: 55 percent said that food is monotonous, 38 percent said that they do not get enough, and 7 percent had no opinion. Among the well-to-do, one in every five said that he or she would like to get more food to eat, the present diet being insufficient. Among the very poor, however, the majority, 52 percent, said that the amount of food that they were getting was insufficient.

A plague of locusts is assuming serious proportions in Sardinia and is endangering the coming harvest. Efforts to combat the plague have been difficult owing to a shortage of insecticides.

Wheat prices to Italian producers for the 1946 crop were fixed on May 22 by the Inter-Ministerial Price Committee in lire per quintal (1 lire=about one-half cent; 1 quintal=220.4 pounds, or 3.66 bushels) according to geographical zones as follows: Soft wheat at official collection centers, 2250 lire in north and central Italy, and at 2350 lire in south Italy, except in the Provinces of Calabria, Lucania, Sicily, and Sardinia, where the price was fixed at 2500 lire. The fixed price for hard wheat is 350 lire per quintal higher in all regions. An additional premium for early delivery was announced at the following rates: 600 lire per quintal for deliveries from June 1 to June 10; 500 lire for deliveries June 11 to June 20; 400 lire for deliveries June 21 to June 30, and 300 lire for deliveries July 1 to July 10. Thus Sicilian soft wheat delivered June 1 would bring 3,100 lire per quintal. The prices per quintal at collection centers for 1945 crop grain were 900 lire for soft wheat and 1,000 lire for hard wheat.

Australian dried-vine fruit production was reduced considerably because of bad weather during the harvesting season. Total production is estimated at 80,680 short tons. Of that quantity allocations have been as follows: Australian services and civilians, 20,740 tons; United Kingdom, 35,840 tons; Canada, 15,680 tons; New Zealand, 5,600 tons; and other countries, 560 tons. Dried-tree fruit production was estimated at 5,087 tons. Processors and packers of dried-tree fruit have been given a free hand in the disposal of the fruit except for token shipments to New Zealand and those required for the armed services.

Switzerland abolished rations on May 13 for preserved fruits, honey, chocolate, and candy. Also effective that date was an extra allotment of 1,500 grams of sugar made available for 1946 canning. The regular sugar allotment is 750 grams per month. Jams and jellies, however, continue to be rationed. In addition, all major foods, such as cereals, milk, condensed milk, other dairy products, fats, and most meats remain on the ration list. However, rationing of goats' meat has been abolished and ration points on horse meat have been reduced. Hotels and restaurants now need observe only 2 meatless days a week instead of 3 as previously.

C O M M O D I T Y D E V E L O P M E N T S

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS 1/

RICE PROSPECTS BRIGHT
IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL

Rio Grande do Sul's rice crop is forecast at 24.5 million to 26.9 million bushels (715 to 785 million pounds milled), compared with the small production of 15.7 million bushels (460 million pounds) last year and the previous record of 24.1 million bushels (700 million pounds) in 1944. This estimate for Brazil's principal rice-exporting State was made in the first part of the March-May harvesting season, with 10 percent of the crop harvested. The rise in production was achieved by a gain in acreage of 15,000 acres over last year and by good weather which resulted in an above-average yield per acre.

Expectations for a larger quantity for export in 1946 than earlier forecast resulted from (1) the favorable outturn in Rio Grande do Sul, and (2) prospects for a reduction in shipments to other Brazilian States owing to good crops also in central Brazil, which were considered sufficient to supply most of the requirements in that area.

Shipments to other States of Brazil during the first quarter of 1946 declined 65 percent below the 73 million for the same period in the preceding year. About 25 million pounds of the 1945 crop was exported during the first quarter of this year, all to destinations in accordance with the rice agreement between Brazil and the United Kingdom. About another 25 million pounds of old-crop rice remained for export at the end of the quarter.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL: Rice shipments to Brazilian States,
January-March 1946, with comparisons a/

| State | : Average : : 1936-1940 : | 1944 | : 1945 b/ : | January-March b/ 1945 | : 1946 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | : Million : : pounds : | : Million : : pounds : | : Million : : pounds : | : Million : : pounds : | : Million : : pounds : |
| Federal District | 136 | 136 | 145 | 46 | 17 |
| Rio de Janeiro | 9 | 8 | 13 | 3 | 1 |
| Sao Paulo | 84 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Parana | 12 | 6 | 8 | 4 | c/ |
| Bahia | 7 | 8 | 13 | 6 | 3 |
| Pernambuco | 9 | 10 | 17 | 6 | 4 |
| Others | 13 | 11 | 18 | 6 | 4 |
| Total shipments | 270 | 184 | 216 | 73 | 29 |
| Foreign exports | 71 | 298 | 160 | 21 | 24 |

American Consulate, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

a/ Shipments from ports of Porto Alegre, Pelotas, and Rio Grande.

b/ Preliminary c/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

1/ This section is continued on page 346.

CHILE'S RICE SURPLUS MAY BE CUT SHARPLY

In view of Chile's smaller rice crop, the exportable surplus available during 1946 is expected to be sharply reduced. The 1946 rice crop is estimated at 5,778,000 bushels (170 million pounds milled), compared with the record production of 7,862,000 bushels (230 million pounds) last year and the prewar (1937-1941) average of 1,686,000 bushels (50 million pounds), according to the final official forecast. The acreage estimate is 119,000 acres against 110,000 a year ago. Despite the increase in rice area, cold weather and storms during the latter part of the growing season caused a considerable drop in yield. In addition, rust adversely affected the size and quality of the crop.

Record rice exports during 1945 at 97 million pounds were 35 million more than those of the preceding year. The Philippine Islands were the principal destination, while Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica, prewar rice-importing countries, also received part of their requirements from Chile. The Philippine Islands, however, continued as the major destination during the first 2 months of 1946.

CHILE: Rice exports by country,
January-February 1946, with comparisons

| Country of destination | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | January-February | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|
| | | | | | 1945 | 1946 |
| | Million | Million | Million | Million | Million | Million |
| | pounds | pounds | pounds | pounds | pounds | pounds |
| Cuba | 9 | 31 | 7 | 14 | - | 2 |
| Bolivia | 7 | 8 | 25 | 14 | - | 1 |
| Peru | 0 | 9 | 15 | 4 | - | 0 |
| Panama | 2 | a/ | 9 | 10 | - | 1 |
| Greece | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | - | 0 |
| Philippine Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | - | 8 |
| Venezuela | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | - | 2 |
| Others | a/ | 2 | 4 | 8 | - | a/ |
| Total | 19 | 51 | 62 | 97 | 5 | 14 |

Compiled from official trade sources.

a/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

FATS AND OILS

CUBAN SOAP FAT POSITION IMPROVES

Cuban arrivals of soap fats of nearly 1.4 million pounds during April exceeded those for any previous month in 1946. For the same month coconut and palm-oil imports of 673,100 pounds; the first received this year, surpassed the total annual 1944 and 1945 imports of those commodities.

Although imported from the United States under allocation, the origin of these oils is the Philippine Islands and Belgian Congo, respectively. Inedible tallow and palm oil made up around 80 percent of Cuban soap-fat imports during April, with coconut oil and animal greases comprising the remainder.

April arrivals of edible vegetable oils were the largest of the current year. Lard receipts, entirely from the United States, were about equal to the monthly allocation.

CUBA: Imports of principal fats and oils,
April 1946 with comparisons

| Commodity | April 1946 | January-April 1946 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds |
| <u>Edible</u> | | |
| <u>Vegetable</u> | | |
| Soybean oil, crude a/ | 185 | 365 |
| Soybean oil, refined a/ | 447 | 1,166 |
| Cotton-seed oil, refined | 1 | 2 |
| Olive oil, refined | 50 | 84 |
| Cocoa butter | 26 | 26 |
| <u>Animal</u> | | |
| Lard a/ | 6,347 | 24,531 |
| Oleostearine | 0 | 111 |
| Total edible oils | 7,056 | 26,285 |
| <u>Industrial</u> | | |
| <u>Vegetable</u> | | |
| Palm oil | 503 | 503 |
| Castor oil | 65 | 65 |
| Linseed oil | 399 | 1,067 |
| Coconut oil | 170 | 313 |
| Ouricuri oil | 0 | 62 |
| Babassu oil | 0 | 49 |
| <u>Animal and fish</u> | | |
| Tallow | 690 | 813 |
| Tallow oil | 0 | 347 |
| Fish oils | 31 | 122 |
| Animal grease | 4 | 40 |
| Total industrial oils | 1,862 | 3,381 |

Source: American Embassy Havana.

a/ Gross weight. Tare of about 20 percent should be deducted for net weight.

ARGENTINE TALLOW EXPORTS
CONTINUE AT LOW LEVEL

Argentine tallow exports for 1946, based on first quarter shipments, are not likely to be larger than the 126 million pounds in 1945, which were the smallest since 1940. Despite this decline, however, Argentina is still the world's leading tallow exporter. From January to March 1946 shipments abroad went principally to Mexico, France, the United Kingdom, Cuba, and the Netherlands.

ARGENTINA: Exports of tallow and cattle fats and oils,
average 1935-1939, annual 1943-1945, January-March 1945 and 1946

| Country of destination | Average: | | | January-March | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 1935- 1939 | 1943 b/ | 1944 b/ | 1945 b/ | 1945 b/ | 1946 b/ |
| | : 1,000 : pounds | : 1,000 : pounds | : 1,000 : pounds | : 1,000 : pounds | : 1,000 : pounds | : 1,000 : pounds |
| Belgium | 6,224: | - | - | 2,857: | 1,150: | 884 |
| Bolivia | 150: | 1,195: | 53: | 362: | - | 260 |
| Brazil | 42: | 7,344: | 42,220: | 4,310: | 3,778: | - |
| Central America | 44: | 638: | 1,834: | 638: | 252: | - |
| Chile | 2,549: | 17,006: | 5,968: | 7,096: | 2,370: | 678 |
| Colombia | 567: | 3,503: | 5,955: | 6,492: | 1,824: | 846 |
| Cuba | 754: | 21,627: | 4,193: | 7,462: | - | 2,406 |
| Ecuador | 218: | 3,417: | 29: | 1,526: | 752: | 778 |
| Eire | 2: | - | - | 265: | 265: | - |
| France | 1,874: | - | - | 276: | - | 3,600 |
| Germany | 26,298: | - | - | - | - | - |
| Italy | 4,184: | - | - | - | - | 1,080 |
| Mexico | 22: | 9,420: | 5,509: | 21,680: | 1,506: | 7,374 |
| Netherlands | 15,516: | - | - | 654: | - | 2,090 |
| Peru | 214: | 7,597: | 4,749: | 1,788: | 304: | 488 |
| Portugal | 110: | 4,830: | 1,752: | 1,382: | 704: | - |
| South Africa | 64: | 1,332: | 1,468: | 236: | - | 14 |
| Spain | 2,593: | 2,088: | 2,187: | 3,682: | 2,228: | - |
| Sweden | 3,340: | 6,955: | 4,017: | 1,270: | - | 884 |
| Switzerland | 1,825: | 5,787: | 5,108: | 796: | - | - |
| United States a/ | 19,332: | 11,182: | 29,222: | 9,378: | 7,844: | 142 |
| United Kingdom | 35,825: | 54,694: | 90,953: | 39,964: | 18,530: | 3,432 |
| Venezuela | - | 2,943: | 3,102: | 4,318: | 102: | - |
| Others | 7,284: | 4,202: | 5,747: | 9,316: | 1,577: | 3,194 |
| Total | 129,031: | 165,810: | 214,073: | 125,748: | 43,186: | 28,150 |

Source: 1935-1939 Anuario Direccion General Estadistica Argentine Republic. 1943-1946 from data submitted by the American Embassy, Buenos Aires.

a/ Includes Canada.

b/ Gross weight.

CUBA PLANS RISE IN FATS, OILS OUTPUT

In order to relieve the fats and oil shortage, the Cuban Government plans to increase the output of peanuts, lard, and tallow by setting higher minimum prices for the next 3 years and by offering other inducements to producers. During 1946 peanut growers will receive \$5.42 per 100 pounds for peanuts in the shell, an increase of nearly \$1.00. In addition, the Government will pay a subsidy of 99 cents per 100 pounds for unshelled peanuts so that the oil can be sold at current ceiling prices. The Cuban Ministry of Agriculture intends to make machinery available to growers in order that they can increase their acreage this season and to distribute over 8 million pounds of seed peanuts.

The goal set for animal-fat production is 20 million pounds of lard and 15 million pounds of tallow, compared with a previous annual output of 6 and 10 million pounds, respectively. Increased production is contemplated through the distribution to farmers of 10,000 pigs and 200 pure-bred bulls. Although the plan reflects the keen interest of the Cuban Government in alleviating the fats and oils shortage, especially of lard and tallow, it is doubtful if the 1946 production will be increased substantially.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

PALESTINE CITRUS CROP UP SHARPLY

Production of oranges in Palestine for 1945-46, now placed at 8 million cases, or a million more than was estimated earlier, is 33 percent larger than the 1944-45 output of 6 million cases and 7 percent more than the 5-year (1940-44) average of 7.5 million cases. Grapefruit production remains at 800,000 cases, the same as estimated previously, and about 100,000 cases more than last year's figure.

The lemon crop is placed at 350,000 cases, 12 percent more than the 1944-45 crop of 312,000 cases. Shortage of packing boxes was the main reason for a large part of the crop not being sold. The Citrus Control Board is attempting to buy lumber in Sweden and Portugal for packing boxes for the coming season in the hope that there will be a sufficient supply to permit exporting 10 million cases this season.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

WEEKLY COTTON PRICES ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths
and qualities in specified markets

| Market, location, kind, and quality | Date 1946 | Unit of weight | Unit of currency | Price in foreign currency | Equivalent U.S. cents per pound |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alexandria, | | Kantar | | | |
| Ashmouni, F.G.F. | 5-23 | 99.05 lbs. | Tallari | 31.75 | 26.51 |
| Giza 7 | 5-23 | 99.05 lbs. | Tallari | Not quoted | |
| Karnak | 5-23 | 99.05 lbs. | Tallari | 36.00 | 30.05 |
| Bombay | | | Candy | | |
| Jarila, fine | 5-23 | 784 lbs. | Rupee | 453.00 | 17.44 |
| Kampala, East African | 5-23 | 784 lbs. | Rupee | 850.00 | 32.72 |
| Buenos Aires | | Metric ton | | | |
| Type B | 5-25 | 2204.6 lbs. | Peso | 1,860.00 | 25.12 |
| Lima | | Sp. quintal | | | |
| Tanguis, Type 5 | 5-25 | 101.4 lbs. | Sol | 136.00 | 20.63 |
| Recife | | Arroba | | | |
| Mata, Type 5 | 5-24 | 33.07 lbs. | Cruzeiro | 95.00 | 15.41 |
| Sertao, Type 5 | 5-24 | 33.07 lbs. | Cruzeiro | 102.00 | 16.55 |
| Sao Paulo | | Arroba | | | |
| Sao Paulo, Type 5 | 5-24 | 33.07 lbs. | Cruzeiro | 122.50 | 19.87 |
| Torreón | | Sp. quintal | | | |
| Middling, 15/16" | 5-24 | 101.4 lbs. | Peso | 100.50 | 20.39 |

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

DANISH HOG NUMBERS
SLIGHTLY INCREASED

Hog numbers in Denmark were reported at 1,885,000 head on May 4, compared with 1,560,000 a year earlier. Weaned pigs and slaughtered hogs totaled 1,236,000 head, the highest number reported since December 30, 1944.

As a result of late spring farrowings, suckling pigs reached 443,000 head, an increase of more than 42 percent over a year ago. In Denmark sows farrowing this spring averaged 8.17 pigs per litter, about normal for Denmark, compared with 6.30 pigs per litter in United States for 1945 spring farrowings, which was slightly above the 10-year average.

The number of bred sows reported on May 4 totaled 112,000 head, the same as a year earlier. In view of the general grain and feed shortage, the number of sows bred in Denmark is not likely to change rapidly during the remainder of the year. A year ago the number of bred sows increased rapidly after the end of the war in anticipation of early imports of grain from overseas. (Periodic census data by classes are given in the October 8, 1945, page 211, and May 6, 1946, page 272, issues of Foreign Crops and Markets.)

AUSTRALIAN DAIRY PROSPECTS IMPROVED

Reflecting the substantial rainfall which produced an abundance of pastures and feeds in the principal dairying districts of Australia during the first quarter of 1946, the production outlook for dairy products this year is favorable. With winter pastures assured in most States, it is expected that output will be maintained at a good level for the fall and winter months of low production.

Under these favorable conditions, it appears that milk production for the 6 months ending June 30, 1946, will be above that of the corresponding period a year ago and that the total 1945-46 (July-June) season's figures will be ahead of those for the previous year, when output was the lowest since 1930-31.

Output of creamery butter for the first 8 months (July-February) of the current season totaled 231 million pounds, the same as in the similar period a year earlier, but well below the record output of 340 million pounds for the same period in 1939-40. Cheese output thus far in the 1945-46 season is above that for the same period a year earlier and also ahead of the record production for the similar period in 1945-43.

SWEDEN EXPANDS WOOL INDUSTRY IN NORTH

After 3 years of cooperative effort, wool interests in northern Sweden have now formed companies for operation of a spinning mill at Morjarv and a ready-made clothing factory at Umea, in the Province of Vasterbotten, both in the northern section of the country.

The latter Province is interested in directing its wool supply to Morjarv where combined with that from Norrbotten the supply is expected to fill the new raw material demands.

Some authorities are showing interest in promoting a more widespread sheep breeding in northern Sweden. About 40,000 sheep are now being raised in Norrbotten, but the number has been as high as 75,000. Advocates believe that the pasture grounds and forest farms of Norrland offer facilities for sheep breeding on a scale which would provide the textile industry with Swedish wool of good and even quality.

During the war Sweden had to depend on the small domestic clip and on imports from South America. Although statistics of wool imports by country of origin are not available, it is known that in the 6 seasons 1939-1945 Argentine exports to Sweden averaged 7.4 million pounds annually and exports from Uruguay, 9.5 million pounds. Normally Sweden imports more raw wool from Australia and the United Kingdom than from any other source. Prior to the war Sweden consumed 16 million pounds annually, only about 1 million pounds of which was produced at home.

Sheep numbers in Sweden totaled 511,000 in September 1945, an increase above the 329,000 reported for the same date in 1940, but almost 200,000 less than in 1927, according to official estimates.

In 1940 a Swedish Government report stated that Sweden would need 1.2 million head of sheep to be self-sufficient during the war. This is essentially the number Sweden had at the turn of the century.

URUGUAYAN WOOL RECEIPTS,
EXPORTS DOWN; PRICES UP

Smaller wool receipts at Montevideo, the principal market in Uruguay, so far this season appear to confirm earlier estimates of a reduced wool clip for the current season 1945-46. Receipts by rail at Montevideo for the first 6 months of the season (October - March) show a decrease of 8 percent compared with the same period last season. The wool clip was estimated at 137 million pounds in Foreign crops and Markets for December 1945, a decrease of 4 percent below the preceding season.

Exports for the first 6 months of the season amounted to 72 million pounds, a decrease of 27 percent below the unusually large shipments last season but 7 percent above the prewar average for those months. Shipments to the United States fell to 53 million pounds, compared with the record shipments last season of 95 million pounds for the same months. During the last 3 war seasons (1942-43 to 1944-45), shipments of Uruguayan wool to the United States during the first 6 months represented over 90 percent of exports to all countries. This year the percentage of total shipments to this country fell to 74 percent but, at that, it is much above the 15 percent in the 5 prewar seasons.

URUGUAY: Wool exports,

| October-March 1945-46, with comparisons | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|----|
| Season | October-March 1945-46 | | | |
| | To the | Total | Percentage of | |
| | United States | | total to the | |
| | | | United States | |
| | Million pounds: | Million pounds: | Percent | |
| Average 1934-35 to | | | | |
| 1938-39 | 10 | 67 | | 15 |
| 1939-40 | 24 | 74 | | 98 |
| 1940-41 | 81 | 93 | | 87 |
| 1941-42 | 21 | 29 | | 72 |
| 1942-43 | 30 | 33 | | 91 |
| 1943-44 | 57 | 62 | | 92 |
| 1944-45 | 94 | 98 | | 96 |
| 1945-46 | 53 | 72 | | 74 |

Compiled from official sources.

In prewar (1934-35 to 1938-39) years, 63 percent of Uruguayan wool exports went to continental Europe, with Germany the chief destination, followed by Italy, Belgium, and France. Exports to continental Europe are now reviving, the total to that destination amounting to 18 million pounds in October through March, or an increase of 423 percent above 1944-45. Switzerland took the largest share, or 6 million pounds, followed by Spain, Sweden, and France.

Apparent supplies for export in the remainder of the season are estimated, as of April 1, at approximately 58 million pounds, or only a little over 50 percent of the estimated surplus for export for the same period last season when a large carry-over from the 1943-44 season increased supplies for disposal that season.

URUGUAY: Wool exports,
October-March 1944-45 and 1945-46

| Country to which exported | 1944-45 | 1945-46 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>1,000 pounds</u> | <u>1,000 pounds</u> |
| <u>Non-European</u> | | |
| United States | 94,292 | 53,185 |
| Bolivia | 139 | 0 |
| Brazil | 98 | 15 |
| Colombia | 75 | 19 |
| Paraguay | 17 | 0 |
| Mexico | 24 | 1 |
| Total ... | 94,645 | 53,220 |
| <u>Europe</u> | | |
| United Kingdom | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Continental Europe</u> | | |
| Denmark ... | 0 | 46 |
| Norway | 0 | 33 |
| Sweden | 2,899 | 4,000 |
| France | 0 | 2,564 |
| Belgium | 0 | 554 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 2 |
| Switzerland | 635 | 6,358 |
| Spain | 0 | 4,235 |
| Finland | 0 | 704 |
| Total | 3,534 | 18,496 |
| Total all countries | 98,179 | 71,716 |

Compiled from information supplied by Embassy at Buenos Aires.

Prices of good fine crossbreds at Montevideo during the last week of March ranged from 28 - 30 cents a pound, grease basis, compared with 26 - 27 cents a year earlier. Supra-fine crossbreds were 32-33 cents and Superior 31-31.4 cents. Last year comparable grades were 28.7-29.3 and 28.1-28.4 cents a pound.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS (con't)ARGENTINE WHEAT
BONUS EXTENDED

The Argentine Government has prolonged the bonus payment of 5 pesos per 100 kilograms of wheat (40.5 cents per bushel) for an additional 30 days. The measure, originally planned for only a 30-day period beginning with April 16, will thus provide for payment through June 15.

The bonus is payable only on wheat of the 1945-46 crop based on No. 2 wheat bagged, on cars at Buenos Aires. The price paid by the Grain Regulating Board for wheat of the 1944-45 and earlier crops has been increased to 15 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$1.21 per bushel), compared with the previous rate of 9 pesos (74 cents) and the total price of \$1.62 now in effect for the 1945-46 wheat. All purchases are to be made through the Grain Purchasing Board.

The bonus was planned as a means of increasing deliveries during the present emergency period, and Government purchases up to May 12 under the program have been reported at 45 million bushels, or more than half of the remaining surplus. Domestic as well as export needs are to be filled from the Board's purchases.

The supply of wheat available in the country appears to be slightly smaller than previously estimated, on the basis of the third official estimate, which places the 1945-46 crop at 143.5 million bushels, instead of 149.5 million bushels, the previous estimate.

CANADIAN GRAIN
AREAS NEED RAIN

Dry weather prevailed over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces of Canada in late May, and rains were urgently needed to prevent deterioration of grain crops. Average rainfall since April 1 had been far below normal in all Provinces, according to reports. Above-average temperatures, along with the dry conditions, made the situation more serious during the last week of May.

In general the southern areas of the Prairie Provinces were in greater need of rain than the northern districts. Rainfall since April 1 had been lowest in Alberta, with dry conditions extending well to the north in that Province. Conditions in the Peace River area, however, were reported to be satisfactory.

Some frost damage was reported during the first half of the month, but recovery is said to have been good. No serious insect infestation has been reported.

Some coarse-grain seeding remained to be done in late May, while the wheat seeding had been completed except in scattered areas, principally in northern sections.